



1400 South 19<sup>th</sup>  
Bozeman, MT 59718

October 18, 2001

To: Governor's Office, Todd O'Hair, Room 204, State Capitol, P.O. Box 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801  
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Room 106, P.O. Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620  
Dept. Environmental Quality, Metcalf Building, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks:

Director's Office	Legal Unit	Design & Construction Bureau
FWP Commissioners	Wildlife Division	Dennis Flath

MT Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, P.O. Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1201  
Montana State Parks Association, P.O. Box 699, Billings, MT 59103  
Montana State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Avenue, P.O. Box 201800, Helena, MT 59620  
James Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, P.O. Box 1184, Helena, MT 59624  
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624  
George Ochenski, P.O. Box 689, Helena, MT 59624  
Gallatin County Commissioners, Gallatin County Courthouse, 311 W. Main, Bozeman, MT 59715  
Gallatin County Road Office, 201 West Tamarack, Bozeman, MT 59715  
Jerry DiMarco, P.O. Box 1571, Bozeman, MT 59771-1571  
Montana Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 1175, Helena, MT 59624  
Wayne Hurst, P.O. Box 728, Libby, MT 59923  
Glenn Hockett, Gallatin Wildlife Association, 745 Doane Road, Bozeman, MT 59715  
Tom Sather, Headwaters Fish & Game Association, P.O. Box 1941, Bozeman, MT 59771-1941  
Perry Backus, 65 Redtail, Dillon, MT 59725  
John Gatchell, Montana Wilderness Association, P.O. Box 635, Helena, MT 59624  
William Fairhurst, Public Lands Access Association, P.O. Box 247, Three Forks, MT 59752  
Jack Atcheson, State Lands Coalition, 3210 Ottawa Street, Butte, MT 59701  
Peter Werner, 17200 Rocky Mountain Road, Belgrade, MT 59714  
Harry Armstrong, 15980 Rocky Mountain Road, Belgrade, MT 59714

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

Enclosed is a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for construction of a parking area for use of hunters on the Armstrong Ranch, which is in the Bridger Mountains and approximately 22 miles north of Bozeman.

The comment period will be from October 18, 2001, until 5:00 p.m. November 8, 2001. Please send any comments to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Armstrong Ranch EA, 1400 So. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave., Bozeman, MT 59718, or e-mail [mross@montana.edu](mailto:mross@montana.edu).

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Flowers  
Regional Supervisor

Enclosure

Gallatin

DRAFT

## MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

### PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. **Type of proposed state action:**  
Armstrong Ranch Parking Lot Construction, Belgrade, MT
2. **Agency authority for the proposed action:**  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
3. **Name of project:**  
Armstrong Ranch Parking Lot
4. **Name, address and phone number of project sponsor (if other than the agency):**
5. **If applicable:**  
Estimated Construction/Commencement Date: Spring, 2002  
  
Estimated Completion Date: Spring, 2002  
  
Current Status of Project Design (% complete): 100%
6. **Location affected by proposed action (county, range and township):**  
Gallatin County, T2N, R5E, Section 23
7. **Project size -- estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:**

	<u>Acres</u>		<u>Acres</u>
(a) Developed:		(d) Floodplain	<u>0</u>
Residential	<u>0</u>		
Industrial	<u>0</u>	(e) Productive:	
		Irrigated cropland	<u>0</u>
(b) Open Space/Woodlands/Recreation	<u>0</u>	Dry cropland	<u>0</u>
		Forestry	<u>0</u>
(c) Wetlands/Riparian Areas	<u>0</u>	Rangeland	<u>1/4</u>
		Other	<u>0</u>

8. **Map/site plan: Attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.**

See attached sheet.

9. **Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.**

(a) Permits:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
Gallatin County	Approach	1997

(b) Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
FWP	\$11,000

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
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10. **Narrative summary of the proposed action or project including the benefits and purpose of the proposed action:**

The Armstrong Ranch is located approximately 22 miles north of Bozeman in the Bridger Mountains and is 800 acres in size. The ranch is in FWP hunting district 312 for deer/elk/mountain lion, 393 for mountain goat, and bear management unit 319. This property is owned by Harry Armstrong of Belgrade, Montana, and has been in the Armstrong family ownership for over fifty years. This is a working cattle ranch and is used primarily for pasturing purposes.

This ranch provided free public hunting access for much of the period of ownership. In the late 1970s, the FWP Wildlife Division entered into a lease agreement with the Armstrongs for the primary purpose of providing access to their ranch to conduct mule deer research. Also written into the lease is a hunter access agreement, for a total annual lease cost of \$1000. Each year FWP posts signs along the access to guide hunters onto the Forest Service lands and eastern portions of the Armstrong Ranch, and to keep them off of neighboring private lands. This is a very popular access for elk, mule deer, black bear, mountain grouse and mountain

lion hunters. Hunting district 312 is now a permit-only season for mule deer bucks. Last year there were 125 mule deer buck permits issued and there are 175 proposed for year 2001. Also in 2001, antlerless mule deer permits will go from 0 to 250. Currently this is one of two hunter accesses in this portion of the Bridger Mountains. The other is the neighboring Maher Ranch where FWP purchased a conservation easement in 1994. There are no public accesses in this portion of the Bridger Mountains. The closest one to the north is Johnson Canyon, which is four air miles away. The closest public access to the south is Corbley Canyon, which is also four air miles away.

We have no data on hunter days for recent years on the Armstrong Ranch, but there are 1-4 cars parked along the county road on most days during the general rifle season. Hunter day use from the neighboring Maher Ranch where they issue permission slips and have a 6 hunters/day restriction for 1999 is as follows: archery and birds 6 hunter days, general rifle season 110 hunter days, and spring black bear 16 hunter days, for a total of 132 hunter days. These numbers were generated when there were only 50 mule deer buck permits and no mule deer "B" tags. In 2001 there will be 250 antlerless mule deer "B" tags and 175 mule deer buck permits so hunter day use should increase accordingly.

The Armstrong property winters approximately 125 mule deer and there could be 100 elk on the property at different times. Elk hunters continue to make increasing use of this portion of the Bridgers as elk numbers expand.

Harry Armstrong called FWP in mid-July 2001 and stated his concern over safety and parking at this access. There has never been a formal parking area for hunters using his property. Parking has been on the shoulder of Rocky Mountain Road, the access is near the top of a hill, and many hunters turn their vehicles around in the middle of the road in the path of on-coming traffic, often in the dark. At times hunters use horses for access and there is an added danger when loading and unloading their stock. With the urban sprawl of the Gallatin Valley, there are more and more people living and commuting to Bozeman from this area. Traffic has increased dramatically in the past five years. Many of these drivers travel this road at excessive speeds that can approach 50 mph.

Harry would like to see a 100 ft. by 100 ft. gravel parking area fenced with a wooden jackleg fence. This would include the following costs:

■ 18" x 20 foot culvert	=	\$ 188
■ 16 foot steel gate	=	\$ 130
■ 4 foot steel gate	=	\$ 60
■ Gravel, hauling and blading to county specs. @ .80 per square foot (.80 x 10,000 sq. ft)	=	\$ 8,000
■ 100 x 100 jack leg fence	=	\$ 2,000
■ Project Total	=	\$11,000

The Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Access Montana Program would fund the construction of the parking lot. This program is intended to work with private landowners to gain hunter access across private land to land locked public ground. Projects can range from parking areas, road improvements or easements. This program began in 2000 and is currently funded

by nonresident hunters who buy upland game bird or outfitter—sponsored deer/elk licenses.

Please refer to the attached map for location of proposed project.

- 11. List of agencies consulted during preparation of the EA:**  
Gallatin County Road Department

## PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

1. Evaluation of the impacts of the Proposed Action including secondary and cumulative impacts on the Physical and Human Environment.

### A. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. <u>LAND RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. **Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil, which would reduce productivity or fertility?			X			See 1b. below
c. **Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- 1b. The proposed Armstrong parking lot is approximately one-quarter acre of native grassland and will be covered with fill/surface material to provide for parking surface. Due to small acreage involved, this impact on soil is considered to be minor.

2. <u>AIR</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. **Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (Also see 13 (c).)		X				
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		X				
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. ***For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge, which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a.)		X				
f. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

There are no cumulative or secondary effects on air resources.

- \* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.  
 Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).  
 Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.  
 \*\*\* Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

3. <b>WATER</b>  Will the proposed action result in:	<b>IMPACT *</b>				<b>Can Impact Be Mitigated*</b>	<b>Comment Index</b>
	<b>Unknown *</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Minor *</b>	<b>Potentially Significant</b>		
a. *Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		X				
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		X				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of floodwater or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c.)		X				
m. ***For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a.)		X				
n. Other:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

There are no cumulative or secondary effects on water resources.

- \* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.
- \*\* Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).
- \*\*\* Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- \*\*\*\* Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

4. <u>VEGETATION</u>	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in?						
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?			X			See 4a. below
b. Alteration of a plant community?			X			See 4b. below
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?		X				
f. ****For P-R/D-I, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		X				
g. Other:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Vegetation (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

- 4a. This site is vegetated by native grass species. The fill/surface material will cover this grass, but due to the small area impacted of less than 0.25 acre, this is a very minor impact.
- 4b. Covering of ground may alter plant species, productivity or abundance, and replace current vegetation with a less potentially productive surface. However, due to the small acreage and the fact that similar vegetation is not limited adjacent to the proposed parking lot, there are no cumulative or secondary effects on vegetation.

- \* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.  
Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).  
Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- \*\*\* Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.



<b>** 5. FISH/WILDLIFE</b>  Will the proposed action result in:	<b>IMPACT *</b>				<b>Can Impact Be Mitigated *</b>	<b>Comment Index</b>
	<b>Unknown *</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Minor *</b>	<b>Potentially Significant</b>		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				
h. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f.)		X				
i. ***For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d.)		X				
j. Other:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Fish/Wildlife (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**  
There are no cumulative or secondary effects on fish/wildlife.

## B. HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

<b>6. NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS</b>  Will the proposed action result in:	<b>IMPACT *</b>				<b>Can Impact Be Mitigated *</b>	<b>Comment Index</b>
	<b>Unknown *</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Minor *</b>	<b>Potentially Significant</b>		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?		X				
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Noise/Electrical Effects (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):** There are no cumulative or secondary effects in relation to noise or electrical effects.

- \* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.
- \*\* Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).
- \*\*\* Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- \*\*\*\* Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

7. <u>LAND USE</u>	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				
e. Other:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Use (attach additional pages of narrative if needed).**

There are no cumulative or secondary effects in relation to land use.

8. <u>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</u>	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		X				
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan, or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
d. ***For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)		X				
e. Other:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Risk/Health Hazards (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

There are no cumulative or secondary effects in relation to risk/health hazards.

\* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

\*\*\* Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u>	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				
f. Other:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Community Impact (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):** There are no cumulative or secondary effects on community impacts.

10. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES</u>	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify:		X				
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Will the proposed action result in increased use of any energy source?		X				
e. **Define projected revenue sources			X			See 10e. below
f. **Define projected maintenance costs.			X			See 10f. below
g. Other:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects Public Services/Taxes/Utilities (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

10e. Funding for this project of \$11,000 will come from Fish, Wildlife & Parks Access Montana program.

10f. There will be some maintenance associated with this parking lot such as signs, parking lot surface maintenance, and weed control. These maintenance items occur on a very infrequent basis. Maintenance costs are estimated at around \$100-\$200 annually and funding will come out of existing budgets.

\* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

\*\* Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

\*\*\* Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

\*\*\*\* Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

<b>** 11. AESTHETICS/RECREATION</b>  Will the proposed action result in:	<b>IMPACT *</b>				<b>Can Impact Be Mitigated *</b>	<b>Comment Index</b>
	<b>Unknown *</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Minor *</b>	<b>Potentially Significant</b>		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
c. **Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report.)		X				
d. ***For P-R/D-I, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c.)		X				
e. Other:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Aesthetics/Recreation (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):** This project will enhance hunting/recreational opportunities on the west slope of the Bridger Mountains by providing better access to the area.

There are no cumulative or secondary effects on aesthetics/recreation.

<b>12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES</b>  Will the proposed action result in:	<b>IMPACT *</b>				<b>Can Impact Be Mitigated *</b>	<b>Comment Index</b>
	<b>Unknown *</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Minor *</b>	<b>Potentially Significant</b>		
a. **Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		X				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. ****For P-R/D-I, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a.)		X				
e. Other:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

Fill will be hauled in from off-site to level the area to grade. Therefore, there will be no surface disturbance other than the placing of fill material. Because there will be no surface disturbance in known cultural sites, there are no cumulative or secondary effects on cultural/historical resources.

\* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

## SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

13. <u>SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE</u>	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:						
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources that create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects, which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. ***For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e.)		X				
g. ****For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.			X			See 13g. below

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Significance Criteria (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

13g. An approach permit from the Gallatin County Road office was secured by the landowner in 1997 and is still valid.

- \* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.
- \*\* Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).
- \*\*\* Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- \*\*\*\* Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

## **PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CONTINUED)**

2. **Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:**

No Action Alternative: The parking area would not be constructed under the No Action Alternative. This will result in a safety issue with people parking/unloading vehicles and or horse trailers on the shoulder of the county road during times of darkness or poor light conditions.

3. **Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:**

None

## **PART III. EA CONCLUSION SECTION**

1. **Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required (YES/NO)? If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action.**

An EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposal as impacts to the human and natural environment would be minimal. An EIS is not required.

2. **Describe the level of public involvement for this project if any, and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?**

This EA will be distributed for a 21-day public comment period beginning October 18, 2001. The EA will be distributed to any known interested parties and the Region 3 standard EA distribution list. Legal notices announcing the release of this EA will be published in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle. Public involvement for this proposal consists of production and advertisement of this EA.

3. **Duration of comment period, if any.**

The comment period for this EA will be 21 days commencing on October 18, 2001, and closing at 5:00 p.m. on November 8, 2001. Comments must be sent to:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Armstrong Ranch EA  
1400 So. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Bozeman, MT 59718  
e-mail: mross@montana.edu

4. **Name, title, address and phone number of the person(s) responsible for preparing the EA:**

Mike Ross  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
1400 So. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Bozeman, MT 59718  
406-994-6371

**Armstrong Access Proposal**  
**FWP Region 3**

● Proposed Parking Area  
 ■ Armstrong Ranch

Rocky Mountain Road  
 Cottonwood Creek  
 Forest Boundary

Compass rose: N, S, E, W

Map details: Contour lines, spot elevations (e.g., 5239T, 5419, 5086T, 5023, 4949T, 5000T, 5041A, 5097T, 5294T, 5084T, 5875T, 5842T, 5263T, 5190T, 5136T, 5145T, 5572, 5548T, 5081AT, 5643T, 5440, 5379T, 5627, 5606, 5256T, 5719T), and place names (North, Smith, Bull).

